

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

-----117755 061910Z /43

P R 061707Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1613

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6600

USEEC AND EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT,SP

SUBJ: SUAREZ RETURNS AND THE UCD "CRISIS" EVAPORATES

REF: MADRID 6549 NOTAL

1. PRIME MINISTER SUAREZ CUT SHORT HIS MALTA VISIT, THE LAST STOP ON HIS EUROPEAN SWING, BY A FEW HOURS TO RETURN SEPT. 2 TO MADRID. MUCH OF THE MADRID PRESS PORTRAYED HIM AS HAVING RUSHED HOME TO RESTORE ORDER TO A BICKERING AND INTERNALLY RIVEN UNION OF THE DEMOCRATIC CENTER (UCD), A TASK WHICH THEY NOW AVER HE HAS ACCOMPLISHED. IN CONTRAST, WE AND NUMBER OF OTHER OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT
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HE HAS CONFIRMED THERE NEVER WAS MUCH OF A CRISIS TO BEGIN WITH -- THAT A HARD NEWS- HUNGRY PRESS HAD BLOWN OUT OF PROPORTION THE NORMAL STRAINS IN A HETERO-GENEOUS POLITICAL GROUPING LIKE UCD.

2. AFTER ASSURING NEWSMEN GATHERED TO COVER HIS ARRIVAL THAT THERE WAS NO CIRISIS, SUAREZ THEN MET OVER THE WEEKEND

WITH THE KING, VARIOUS OF HIS MINISTERS, AND UCD PARTY NOTABLES. ALL OF THESE MEETINGS WERE PRESENTED AS THE NORMAL EXCHANGES OF IMPRESSIONS AND BRIEFINGS WHICH FOLLOW THE TRIP ABROAD OF A PRIME MINISTER AND PARTY LEADER. LATE SEPT. 5 SUAREZ ALSO HELD A LENGTHY PRIVATE MEETING WITH PSOE SECGEN FELIPE GONZALEZ, WHO HAD HIMSELF JUST RETURNED FROM ALMOST TWO WEEKS IN LATIN AMERICA. AFTER THE MEETING, GONZALEZ, WHO ALREADY IS CLEARLY ON RECORD WITH SUAREZ AS OPPOSING ANY COLAITION GOVT OR "GOVT OF NATIONAL CONCENTRATION" (REFTEL), TOLD THE PRESS THAT THERE WERE NO "OBJECTIVE" REASONS FOR ANY GOVERNMENTAL CRISIS, ALTHOUGH UCD MIGHT BE EXPERIENCING A "CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE".

3. WITH THE RETURN OF SUAREZ AND GONZALEZ, AND JUST ABOUT EVERYONE ELSE, TO THEI POSTS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE POLITICAL PLAYERS WILL GET DOWN TO SERIOUS BUSINESS. WE HOPE THE FOURTH ESTATE WILL FOLLOW SUIT.EATON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770995/aaaadcli.tel
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Litigation History:
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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